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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/656,309	09/06/2000	Walter Callen	DIVER1350-2	9418
20985	7590	07/11/2005		EXAMINER
FISH & RICHARDSON, PC 12390 EL CAMINO REAL SAN DIEGO, CA 92130-2081			HUTSON, RICHARD G	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1652	

DATE MAILED: 07/11/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/656,309	CALLEN ET AL.
Examiner	Art Unit	
Richard G. Hutson	1652	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 April 2005.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 53-64 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) 53 is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 54-64 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ .

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: ____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Applicants amendment of claim 54, in the paper of 4/22/2005, is acknowledged.

Claims 53-64 are at issue and are present for examination.

Applicants' arguments filed on 4/22/2005, have been fully considered and are deemed to be persuasive to overcome some of the rejections previously applied. Rejections and/or objections not reiterated from previous office actions are hereby withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 54-64 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Diversa Inc. (WO 99/07837) in view of Short (US Patent 5,939,250).

Diversa Inc. (WO 99/07837) teach a number of thermostable enzymes derived from a number of various extremophilic prokaryotic organisms including that polymerase encoded by and the nucleic acid of instantly disclosed SEQ ID NO: 1.

Short teaches a number of known techniques for directed mutagenesis for the development of modified enzymes with particularly desired properties that are absent or less pronounced in the wild-type enzyme, such as stability to heat or organic solvents.

Short specifically teaches "error-prone PCR", "shuffling", "oligonucleotide-directed mutagenesis", "assembly PCR", "sexual PCR mutagenesis", "in vivo mutagenesis", "cassette mutagenesis", "recursive ensemble mutagenesis", "exponential ensemble mutagenesis", and "site-specific mutagenesis".

One of ordinary skill in the art at the time of filing would have been motivated to modify the nucleic acid sequence encoding the polymerase encoded by instant DEQ ID NO: 1 as taught by Diversa Inc. (WO 99/07837) using each of the methods taught by Short, including "error-prone PCR", "shuffling", "oligonucleotide-directed mutagenesis", "assembly PCR", "sexual PCR mutagenesis", "in vivo mutagenesis", "cassette mutagenesis", "recursive ensemble mutagenesis", "exponential ensemble mutagenesis", and "site-specific mutagenesis" in order to modify the amino acid sequence of the polymerase such that the enzyme has a increased polymerase activity relative to the wild-type enzyme. One of ordinary skill in the art at the time of filing would have a reasonable expectation of success because of the high level of knowledge in the field of nucleic acid mutagenesis and the teachings of Diversa Inc. (WO 99/07837) who successfully generated a similar variants using similar mutagenesis methods.

Thus Diversa Inc. (WO 99/07837). and Short make obvious claims 54-64.

It should be noted that applicants claim to each of the specifically recited mutagenesis methods is only given priority to the instant application, and not the parent application which the instant application is a continuation-in-part of. Thus the

references used in the 103 rejection above and below are available as art against those claims not granted earlier priority.

Claims 54 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Diversa Inc. (WO 99/07837) in view of Short (US Patent 6,479,258).

Diversa Inc. (WO 99/07837) teach a number of thermostable enzymes derived from a number of various extremophilic prokaryotic organisms including that polymerase encoded by and the nucleic acid of instantly disclosed SEQ ID NO: 1.

Short teaches a number of known techniques for non-stochastic methods of directed mutagenesis for the development of modified enzymes with particularly desired properties that are absent or less pronounced in the wild-type enzyme, such as stability to heat or organic solvents. Short specifically teaches "gene reassembly", and "gene site saturated mutagenesis".

One of ordinary skill in the art at the time of filing would have been motivated to modify the nucleic acid sequence encoding the polymerase encoded by instant SEQ ID NO: 1 as taught by Diversa Inc. (WO 99/07837) using each of the methods taught by Short, including "gene reassembly", and "gene site saturated mutagenesis" in order to modify the amino acid sequence of the polymerase such that the enzyme has a increased polymerase activity relative to the wild-type enzyme. One of ordinary skill in the art at the time of filing would have a reasonable expectation of success because of the high level of knowledge in the field of nucleic acid mutagenesis and the teachings of

Diversa Inc. (WO 99/07837) who successfully generated a similar variants using similar mutagenesis methods.

Thus Diversa Inc. (WO 99/07837), and Short make obvious claims 54-64.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Richard G. Hutson whose telephone number is (571) 272-0930. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 am to 4:00 pm, M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ponnathapu Achutamurthy can be reached on (571) 272-0928. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Richard G Hutson, Ph.D.
Primary Examiner

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7/7/2005